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UNCLAS BRATISLAVA 001138

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INL  
JUSTICE FOR OIA, AFMLS, AND NDDS  
TREASURY FOR FINCEN  
DEA FOR OILS AND OFFICE OF DIVERSION CONTROL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
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SUBJECT: SLOVAKIA: NARCOTICS REPORT PART I

REF: STATE 248987

#### SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

1. SLOVAKIA LIES AT THE CROSSROADS OF TWO MAJOR DRUG TRANSIT ROUTES, THE TRADITIONAL EAST-WEST ROUTES FROM UKRAINE AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE HISTORIC "BALKAN ROUTE," WHICH RUNS FROM SOUTHWEST ASIA TO TURKEY AND ON TO GERMANY, FRANCE, AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE GOS IS A PARTY TO THE 1988 UN DRUG CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

#### STATUS OF COUNTRY

2. LEVELS OF BOTH CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS IN SLOVAKIA REMAIN RELATIVELY LOW, HOWEVER, IT HAS A FULLY DEVELOPED DOMESTIC MARKET FOR NARCOTICS. DEMAND FOR STIMULANTS, MAINLY PERVITIN AND ECSTASY, IS RAPIDLY GROWING, AND THEIR USE, ALONG WITH THAT OF MARIJUANA, IS QUICKLY SPREADING INTO SMALLER SLOVAK TOWNS.

3. THE GOS REMAINS CONCERNED THAT SLOVAKIA IS A TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR SMUGGLED DRUGS AND CONCENTRATES ITS INTERDICTION EFFORTS ON EAST-WEST SMUGGLING FROM UKRAINE AND RUSSIA. RUSSIAN ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS TRAFFIC AFGHAN HEROIN AND PEACEFULLY COOPERATE WITH THE ESTABLISHED ALBANIAN CRIMINAL GROUPS USING THE BALKAN ROUTE. THE ALBANIAN COMMUNITY IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE HEROIN TRADE IN THE REGION, AND THEY MAINLY USE THE SOUTHERN BALKAN ROUTE THROUGH BULGARIA AND CROATIA.

4. EU ACCESSION AND MORE OPEN BORDERS HAVE CREATED CONDITIONS FOR DRUG-RELATED ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS TO TAKE ROOT IN SLOVAKIA, AND MOST OF THEM ARE BASED ON ETHNIC PRINCIPLES. STREET SALES HAVE NOT TAKEN ROOT IN SLOVAKIA, AND THE ROMA COMMUNITY DOMINATES DOMESTIC DRUG DISTRIBUTION BY SELLING DRUGS FROM THEIR HOMES. ALBANIAN GROUPS SUPPLY THE ROMA SELLERS.

#### COUNTRY ACTIONS AGAINST DRUGS IN 2004

5. POLICY INITIATIVES: THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS WAS REVISED FOR 2004-2008 AND REPRESENTS A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO REDUCE DRUG USE. THE GOS ALSO ESTABLISHED A MINISTERIAL COUNCIL FOR DRUG DEPENDENCIES AND DRUG CONTROL, WHICH IS MAINLY FOCUSED ON EDUCATION AND PREVENTION. LAW ENFORCEMENT MINISTRIES PARTICIPATE AND IMPLEMENT THEIR PARTS OF THE PLAN INDEPENDENTLY.

6. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2004, THERE WERE 597 DRUG-RELATED CRIMINAL CASES IN SLOVAKIA. THE NUMBER OF CASES INVOLVING SYNTHETIC NARCOTICS INCREASED 42.67 PERCENT COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF OF 2003, AND THE SHARE OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS IN OVERALL DRUG-RELATED CRIMES WAS 28.6 PERCENT, UP FROM 19.2 PERCENT IN 2003. METHAMPHETAMINES (PRECURSOR TO PERVITIN) ACCOUNTED FOR MUCH OF THE INCREASE. THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG UNIT (NADU) INVESTIGATED 18 CASES IN BRATISLAVA AND 23 CASES IN OTHER REGIONS, REPRESENTING A 29 PERCENT DECREASE FROM 2003.

7. LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS: THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MOI) UNDERWENT COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING IN 2004. THE CRIMINAL AND FINANCIAL POLICE, IN WHICH THE NADU IS LOCATED, MERGED WITH THE MOI'S SECURITY POLICE. SLOVAK AUTHORITIES HOPE THE RESTRUCTURING WILL FACILITATE BETTER COMMUNICATION AND SHORTEN INVESTIGATIONS. A SPECIALIZED POLICE AGENCY TARGETING ORGANIZED CRIME IS ALSO PART OF THE REORGANIZATION. IN THIS RE-ORGANIZATION, THE NADU LOST SOME OF ITS AUTHORITY AND IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR THE BRATISLAVA REGION AS A PART OF THE OFFICE FOR FIGHTING ORGANIZED CRIME (OFOC). OTHER REGIONAL ANTI-DRUG UNITS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE OFOC, BUT THEY DO NOT COMMUNICATE WITH THE NADU. CONTRARY TO THE 2000 GOS' RESOLUTION THAT CALLED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NADU'S STAFF FROM 150 TO 250 PERSONNEL, THE MOI DOWNSIZED THE UNIT TO 35 PEOPLE WHEN THE MOI MADE IT RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR THE BRATISLAVA REGION.

8. CORRUPTION: SLOVAKIA HAS MADE MAJOR LEGISLATIVE STRIDES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION. OFFICIALS SERIOUS ABOUT CREATING TRANSPARENT RULES AND PROSECUTING ABUSES HAVE BEEN PUT IN KEY POSITIONS, A NEW CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAW PASSED

IN 2004, AND A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR AND COURT TO FIGHT CORRUPTION WERE INSTITUTED. THE HEAD OF THE GOS' ANTI-CORRUPTION OFFICE IS A NOTED HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER WHO LIBERALIZED THE USE OF "STING" OPERATIONS AND INTRODUCED A "WHISTLE BLOWER" STATUTE TO PROTECT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO TALK TO INVESTIGATORS ABOUT CORRUPTION IN THEIR OFFICES. SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF THESE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE REMAINS A CHALLENGE.

19. AGREEMENTS OR TREATIES: SLOVAKIA IS A PARTY TO THE 1988 UN DRUG CONVENTION, THE 1961 UN SINGLE CONVENTION ON

NARCOTIC DRUGS, THE 1972 PROTOCOL AMENDING THE SINGLE CONVENTION, AND THE 1971 UN CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES. THE EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTINUED IN FORCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SLOVAKIA. SLOVAKIA HAS RATIFIED THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND HAS SIGNED THE PROTOCOL TO PREVENT, SUPPRESS AND PUNISH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AS WELL AS THE PROTOCOL AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS.

10. CULTIVATION/PRODUCTION: THE NADU REPORTS THAT MARIJUANA CULTIVATION HAS INCREASED IN ALL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY, AND SEVERAL GROUPS ARE GROWING HIGH-QUALITY MARIJUANA IN LABORATORY CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF MARIJUANA USED IN SLOVAKIA IS STILL IMPORTED FROM MOROCCO, LEBANON, INDIA, PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT HEROIN IS BEING PRODUCED IN SLOVAKIA. SLOVAK MDMA (ECSTASY) USE HAS INCREASED, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN FEW REPORTS OF ITS PRODUCTION WITHIN THE COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, PERVITIN IS PRODUCED FOR MAINLY DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, AND CZECH "EXPERTS" ARE HIRED AND CONSULTED ON PRODUCTION METHODS. IN RECENT YEARS, POLICE HAVE DISCOVERED 20 TO 30 SYNTHETIC DRUG LABORATORIES ANNUALLY.

11. DRUG FLOW/TRANSIT: THE SHARED BORDER WITH HUNGARY AND UKRAINE WAS THE SITE OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS TO ENTER SLOVAKIA WITH ILLEGAL NARCOTICS. THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS TO SMUGGLE DRUGS OUT OF SLOVAKIA HAPPENED AT THE CZECH AND AUSTRIAN BORDERS.

12. DOMESTIC PROGRAMS: ACCORDING TO THE 2003 MINI-DUBLIN GROUP REPORT, THE GOS IS AMONG THE HIGHEST SPENDERS ON PREVENTATIVE ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO PER CAPITA GNP. CENTERS FOR EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PREVENTION FOCUS ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONCERNING DRUG USE AND FUNCTION IN HALF OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS OF SLOVAKIA. THE SLOVAK HEALTHCARE SERVICE HAS A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND OFFERS SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM TREATMENT.

#### U.S. POLICY INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

13. BILATERAL COOPERATION: AS IN PRIOR YEARS, SLOVAK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COURSES, FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE CLASSES WERE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE RESISTANCE TO CORRUPTIVE INFLUENCES AT THE WORKING LEVEL AND TO IMPROVE COUNTER-NARCOTICS AND ORGANIZED CRIME DETECTION/INVESTIGATIVE SKILLS. POST'S EXPORT CONTROL AND BORDER SECURITY PROGRAM PROVIDED NUMEROUS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR SLOVAK CUSTOMS OFFICERS. THE TWO MOST EFFECTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS WERE THE FOUR WEEKS OF JOINT TRAINING WITH CZECH OFFICERS ON THE CZECH-SLOVAK BORDER AND A SIMILAR PROGRAM ON THE SLOVAK-UKRAINIAN BORDER.

14. THE ROAD AHEAD: THE USG WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE GOS TO ADEQUATELY BUDGET FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND TO MAINTAIN ITS TOUGH STANCE ON DRUG INTERDICTION.

THAYER

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